A photograph of a hand holding a car key over an outstretched hand, set against a background of asphalt. The text "Who's in Charge?" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

***Who's in  
Charge?***

***Young Drivers,  
Parent Involvement  
and***



# Overview



## *Before Teens Drive:*

- Dare to Prepare

## *While They Learn:*

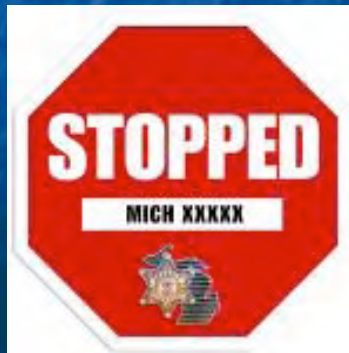
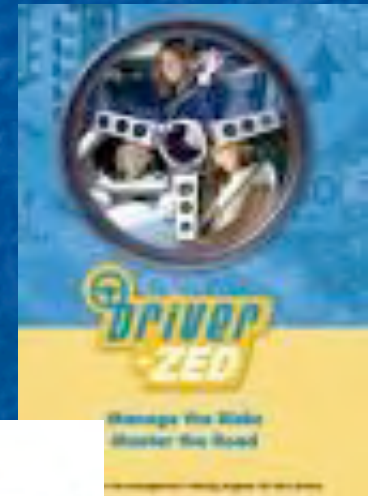
- Driver ZED

## *During the 50 hours:*

- Teaching Your Teens to Drive

## *On Their Own:*

- S.T.O.P.P.E.D.





# Program goals



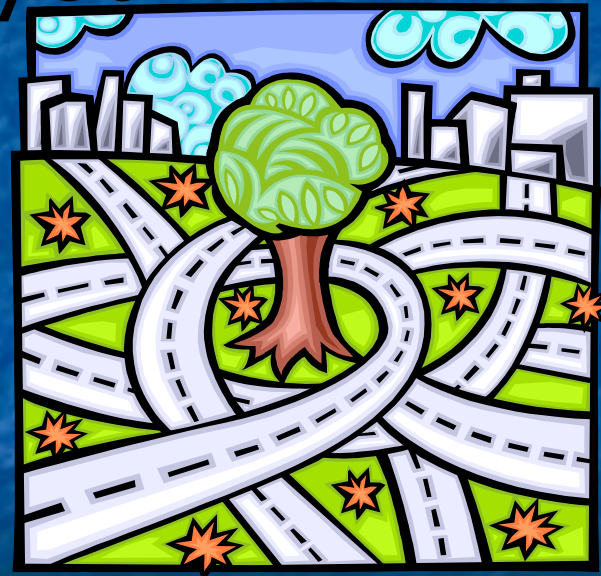
- Overall
- For parents
- For teens



# Overview



- This is a pre-permit course designed to help you.
- Topics include:
  - Teen statistics
  - GDL licensing





# Pre-test (T/F)



- Once you earn your license, you own it.

**FALSE**

- Parents, not teens, decide whether a teen is allowed to begin driver's education.

**TRUE**

- Female drivers' fatal crash rates are increasing in the U.S.

**TRUE**

# Pre-test (T/F)



- Price and convenience factors (program length, proximity to home, etc.) are the most important factors to consider when choosing a driving school.

**FALSE**

- Parents need GDL laws to manage their teen's learning-to-drive process.

**FALSE**

# Why are you here?



- To learn about the responsibilities that come with driving.
- Why is that important? Because...  
Crashes are the leading cause of death for teen drivers!

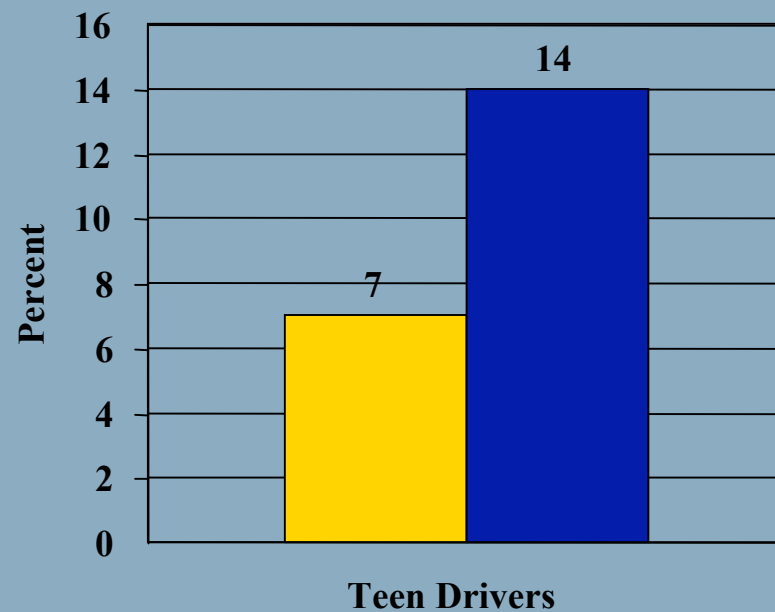




# Teen driving statistics



Although teens represent 7% of the licensed population, they are involved in 14% of all fatal crashes.



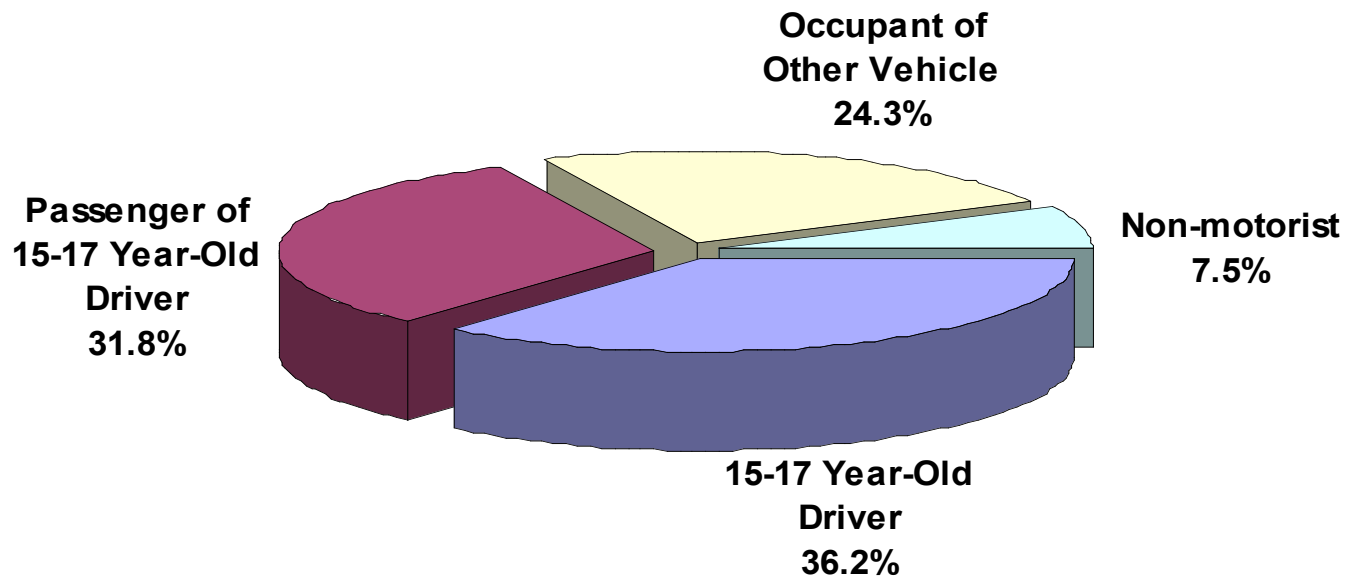


# Who dies?

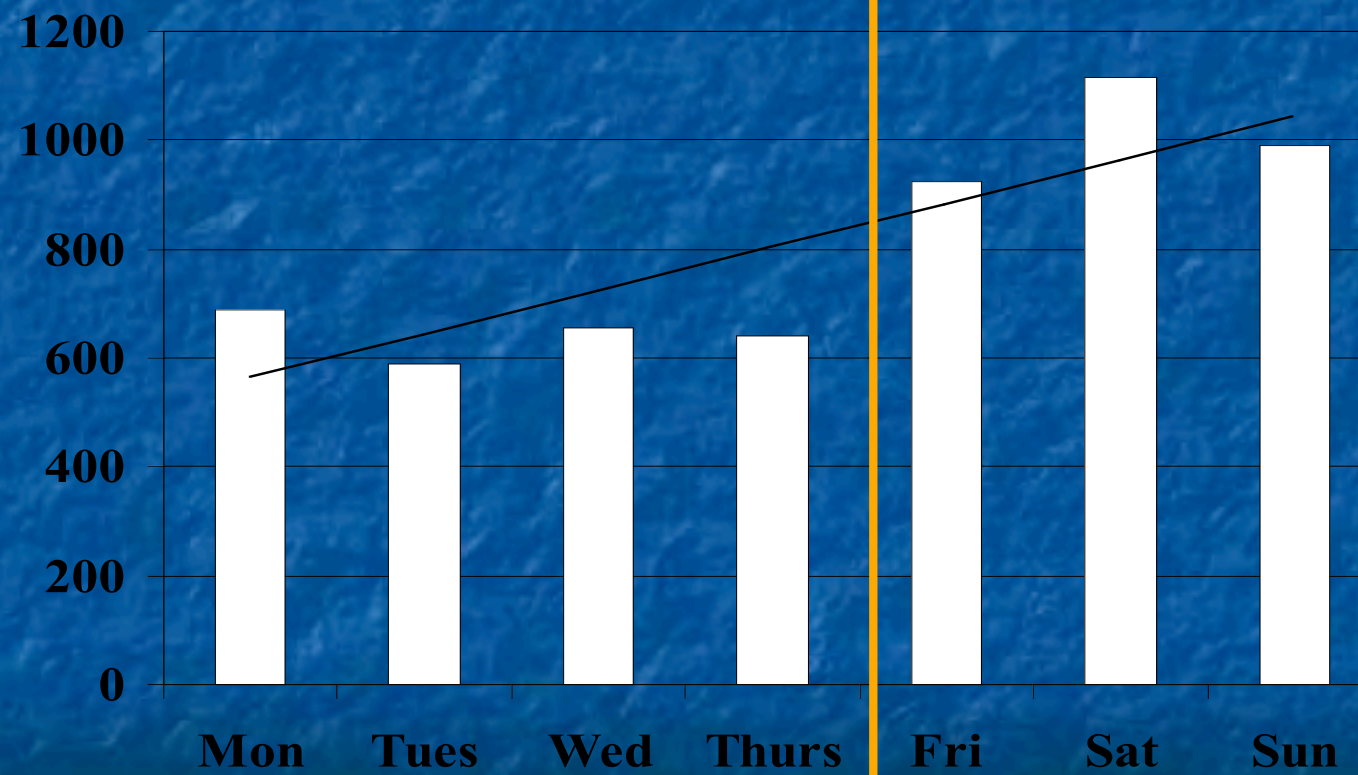


**Between 1995 and 2004 crashes involving teen drivers claimed 30,917 lives.**

**Nearly 2 out of every 3 people killed in teen-driver crashes are people other than the teen driver.**



# When teens die





# Why teens crash?



- Top four reasons:
  - Poor Visual Search Habits
  - Inattention
  - Speed Management
  - Space Management

Others reasons?

# Other reasons



- Bad habits
- Following too closely
- Speeding
- Not using safety belts
- Driving while impaired
- Passengers, especially other teens
- Distracted driving
- Aggressive driving and road rage
- Poor scanning
- Poor distance judgment





# Deadly D's



- **Distractions:** cell phones, changing the radio, talking with friends, even adjusting the climate controls.
- **Drinking:** alcohol use for persons under 21 is prohibited. A blood alcohol level for a person under 21 that registers .02 is considered "under the influence," or "zero tolerance."



# Fatigue



- Who is more at risk, older drivers or younger drivers?
  - Younger drivers.
- Who is more likely to be involved? Males or Females?
  - Males!

*I can't keep my eyes open*

**Yawn**



**I'm tired**



# GDL



- GDL is designed to support novice drivers in becoming safe drivers.
- GDL is the *minimum* level of restrictions parents should use.
- GDL occurs in three stages
  - Stage 1 – Learner's Permit
  - Stage 2 – Intermediate/Probationary License
  - Stage 3 – Full/Unrestricted License

Stage	Learner's permit	Provisional license	Full license
Minimum age eligible	14 yrs., 8 mos.	16	17
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ complete driver education</li> <li>■ pass written test</li> <li>■ vision exam</li> <li>■ parent approval</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ hold a Level 1 for 90 days</li> <li>■ drive 50 hours supervised, 10 at night</li> <li>■ Pass road skills test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ hold Level 2 license for 6 months</li> <li>■ must have 12 consecutive months of crash/violation-free driving w/Level 1 &amp; 2 licenses</li> </ul>
Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ no unsupervised driving- with parent or designated adult over 21</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ no unsupervised driving from midnight to 5 am (except for employment)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ no restrictions</li> </ul>



# What to do?



- Open lines of communication.
- Develop “house rules” of the road.
- Define parental and teen expectations.
- Review and understand a parent-teen driving agreement.

# Whose license is it?



- Who owns your driver's license?
  - You?
  - Parents?
  - The State?

The state does, but your parents control and are responsible for it until you're 18!

Driving is a privilege, not a right- you will be allowed to drive; you don't have a right to drive.



# Responsible driving



- Graduated Driver Licensing is designed to reward new drivers for their proper behaviors.
- This is real and a big deal! For most teens, it's your first real adult responsibility.
- There are long and short term effects of being an irresponsible driver...

# Consequences



## Short Term

- Return to an earlier stage of GDL.
- Loss of driving privileges.
- Payment for damages - fines.
- Pay for what insurance won't cover.
- Insurance cost UP.
- Damage social life.
- Injuries.

## Long Term

- If there is a conviction it goes on your permanent record forever.
- Competition is fierce and schools and employers need any excuse to turn you down.
- Injuries/Death.



# If this were my child...



- If this was my child, I would be sure to open conversation regarding...
  - Curfew – Flight plan
  - Hours permitted to drive
  - Number of passengers
  - Driving restrictions
  - Car maintenance
  - Concerns about driving while fatigued, distracted, intoxicated, or emotional
  - Defensive driving

# Driving agreement



- This agreement adds protective guidelines to teen driving.
- It spells out the driving privileges, responsibilities and consequences for violations.
- Can be used to ward off peer pressure!

Visit **AAA.com**, click on the **News/Safety** tab, **The Safety Page, Teen Driver Safety** and scroll to **contract links** for more information.





# Parent-to-Parent driving agreement



- Parents work with other parents!
- Establish common rules regarding acceptable teen driving.
- Give each other contact information and call if you see something unacceptable.

# Choosing a driving school



- Traditional Factors
  - Convenience
  - Price
  - Location
- Most Important Factor

**QUALITY**





# Choosing a driving school



- Find a school that meets your needs
  - Visit their facility
  - Check out their vehicles
  - Check their training materials
  - Ask for references
  - Look for a ***minimum*** of 30 classroom hours with at least six hours of behind the wheel instruction.

# Choosing a vehicle



- Teen, what's important to you?
  - Speed?
  - Powerful sound system?
  - Sports car, sport utility vehicle, or a vintage ride?

■ **THINK AGAIN!**





# Vehicle ownership means?



## **Liability!!!!**

- Who's responsible for...
  - making vehicle payments?
  - paying for gas?
  - checking the fluids?
  - checking or replacing tires?
  - making repairs and general maintenance?
  - paying for registration?
  - paying for insurance?



# What can I do?



## Parents:

- Work with your teen
  - Stay involved, it reduces teen risk!
  - Lead by example— model good behavior
  - Be a coach
    - Give feedback
    - Listen
    - Don't express anger, frustration, or annoyance!



# What can I do?



## Teens:

- Work with your parents
  - Ask them questions
  - Be receptive to their feedback
  - Take advantage of being a passenger and observe!

# Work together



Parents + Teens = **Team**

- What can you do together?
  - Lots of supervised practice
  - Commentary driving
  - Do your homework and visit sites such as
    - [AAA.com](http://AAA.com)
    - [aaafoundation.org](http://aaafoundation.org)
    - [RoadReadyTeens.com](http://RoadReadyTeens.com)
  - Know your Graduated Driver Licensing laws.



# Program summary



## **Parents:**

- Decide if you're ready!
- Know the GDL laws.
- Use a Parent-Teen Driving Agreement.

## **Teens:**

- Driving is a privilege not a right! It's a lifelong pursuit, not a one-time learning event!
- Know about your responsibilities to yourself, family and society.
- Ask questions!

## **Both:**

Work as a team!

# Tools and resources



- *Welcoming Your New Driver*
- *Choosing a Driving School*
- *Teaching Your Teens to Drive*
- AAA Checkpoints Program
- DriverZED- Offered by AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

Visit **AAA.com**, click on the **New/Safety tab** for more information.



# Teaching Your Teens to Drive:

## *A Partnership for Survival*



- Developed by National AAA, originally for states without a Driver Education requirement.
- Designed to assist parents in specific areas of driver development.
- Thirteen lessons, 55 minutes of video, used with in-car support.



StartSmart...  
the keys to safe teen driving.



1



## Practice Driving

**Agree on:**

**Seat belt use**  
**Speeding**

**No alcohol or drugs**

**Who can drive the car**

**Who pays for what**

**Time limitations**

**Passenger restrictions**

**Road & Weather conditions**



### AAA Parent-Teen Driving Agreement

Learning to drive can be both exciting and stressful for a teenager — and his or her parents. AAA has developed this parent-teen driving agreement to help families work together to safely navigate the learning process. The agreement helps establish rules and consequences for teens, but also places responsibilities on parents. Safe driving generally requires much more than what state laws call for, and signing an agreement before the teen starts driving can be helpful in establishing expectations for the whole family. By working as a team, parents and teens can accomplish their shared goal — a safe, successful teen driver. Note: Driver licensing requirements vary by state and should be considered a *minimum* for teens. Find state-by-state requirements and a full-length driving agreement at [AAA.com/publicaffairs](http://AAA.com/publicaffairs).

#### Non-Negotiable Rules for Everyone

Parent(s) and teen will:	Parent(s) and teen will NOT:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear seat belts and require all passengers to wear seat belts</li> <li>Obey all traffic laws</li> <li>Drive at safe speeds for road conditions — at or below the speed limit</li> <li>Be a courteous driver</li> <li>Agree to meet at least once per month to discuss the teen's driving performance and plans for the next month</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drive under the influence of alcohol or other drugs or ride with an impaired driver</li> <li>Engage in racing, stunts, or other thrill-seeking while behind the wheel</li> <li>Conceal tickets, warnings, or crashes</li> <li>Allow anyone else to drive the car</li> </ul>

#### Learner's Permit

Parents and teens should practice a minimum of two hours each week for at least six months (several states require longer) to ensure the teen gains ample experience in a range of driving conditions before solo driving.

Parent(s) will:	Teen will:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide and maintain a safe vehicle</li> <li>Pay for driver training classes and materials</li> <li>Be available for practice driving above and beyond what is required by law</li> <li>Provide practice on a variety of road types and driving conditions</li> <li>Share observations and provide coaching in a calm, respectful manner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively participate in driver training classes</li> <li>Make time for practice driving</li> <li>Not drive without parent(s)</li> </ul>

#### Intermediate License/Solo Driving

Driving without a parent poses new challenges for a teen. Crash rates are especially high during the first year of driving. Research shows that teens have fewer crashes when there are limits on solo driving that gradually relax as they gain experience. The table below is based on research and modeled after the National Institute of Health's Checkpoints program. Suggestions are provided in the boxes below; check that the rules you set meet requirements in your state. Breaking rules, at-fault crashes, and moving violations should result in reverting to an earlier phase for a pre-determined time. Critical violations (racing, reckless driving, drinking and driving, etc.) should result in license suspension for a pre-determined time.

	First Two Months	Months 3-6	Months 7-12
Start date	____/____/____	____/____/____	____/____/____
No driving after	8 p.m. or dark	9 p.m.	10 p.m.
Passengers	No one under 25	No other teens	No more than one
Roads	Local	No highway	Most
Weather	Dry	Moderate	Most
Parent(s) will:	Teen will:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide practice on a range of road types and in various driving conditions</li> <li>Consider appropriate exceptions when asked in advance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Always tell parent(s) where he/she is going and with whom</li> <li>Always call home if going to be late</li> <li>Always call home if it's not safe to drive or ride</li> <li>Pull safely off the road before using a cell phone or other electronic device</li> </ul>		

#### Signatures

Teen: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_





## ***Sheriffs Telling Our Parents and Promoting Educated Drivers***

Designed to be used during Level 2 and Level 3 license.

Developed by the Onondaga County, NY Sheriff Department in 2000. Began in MI in 2005 with 7 county pilot, now 67 counties and 4,300 vehicles registered statewide.

Also used by Sheriff Departments in Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia, Maryland, Texas and Florida.

# ***Sheriffs Telling Our Parents and Promoting Educated Drivers***



- **Register vehicle at:**  
[www.michigansheriff.com](http://www.michigansheriff.com)
- **Parents receive a STOPPED sticker in the mail.**
- **Sticker is affixed to upper left windshield, out of field of view.**
- **If a young driver is pulled over, parents receive a letter regarding the incident**



# Resources for Materials



**AAA Michigan** – [www.aaa.com](http://www.aaa.com), click on the  
News/Safety tab

*1 Auto Club Drive, Dearborn, MI 48126*

*(800) 646-4AAA*

**AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety** –  
[www.aafts.org](http://www.aafts.org)

*607 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 201, Washington, DC 20005*

*(800) 993-7222*

**Michigan Sheriffs' Association**

*515 N. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933*

*(517) 485-3135*



# ***Thank you for your dedication to traffic safety***

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